



October 25, 2005

Honorable Cliff Thaell, Chair
Leon County Board of County Commissioners
301 South Monroe Street, 5th Floor
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Commissioner Thaell:

We appreciate your interest in the upcoming Author Event, which is the major fundraiser for the Friends of the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library. This year's event is scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2006, at the Civic Center.

We are THRILLED to have booked our guest author, **Scott Turow**. Mr. Turow is VERY popular as the acclaimed legal thriller author of One L, Presumed Innocent, The Burden of Proof, The Laws of Our Fathers, Personal Injury, and Reversible Errors. His stories are "played out in dingy courtrooms with parades of colorful lawyers, witnesses and judges. There are scoundrels, criminals and operators. The upright are at times disreputable, even despicable, and the disreputable surprise us with honorable, even courageous acts."

Cliff, as you know, this is a popular event, and we are expecting another sell-out because of Mr. Turow's talent and national popularity. We would love to have the Leon County Commission sponsor a table again. Our sponsorship levels are \$1500, \$2500, and \$5000, and include dinner for eight, excellent seating for the speaker's discussion, and two tickets (or more, depending on sponsor level) to a private VIP reception with Mr. Turow. Last year the Commission supported us at the \$2500 level.

The Author Event is a unique and entertaining fundraiser. The author is impressive, the audience is impressive, and the list of sponsors is impressive. As you know, your financial help goes to support the work of our library system – providing books, literacy staff, and funding towards the new Bookmobile. No one knows better than the members of the County Commission the efforts of the Friends of the Library. We are trying to provide all the tools for higher learning in Leon County. Because an educated community is a healthy community, we would appreciate your support for the Author Event.

We look forward to hearing from you, especially if you have any questions – 385-7749 (evenings). Or, you may call Beth Langford at 906-0700 (daytime). Thank you so much for your consideration. If you would like representation from the Author Event Committee at a County Commission meeting, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Laura Rogers
Author Event Funding Co-Chair
385-7749

Beth Langford
Author Event Funding Co-Chair
906-0700



Photo Credit: © Greg Martin

Scott Turow, is an attorney and an author. Mr. Turow's first book, *One L*, about his experience as a first-year student at Harvard Law School, was published in 1977. Ten years later, he achieved a life-long ambition, with the publication of his first novel, *Presumed Innocent*, followed by *The Burden of Proof* and *Pleading Guilty*. His fourth novel, *The Laws of Our Fathers*, was published in 1996. *Personal Injuries* was published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in October, 1999 and *Reversible Errors* was published in November 2002 (also by Farrar, Straus & Giroux). Mr. Turow's books have been translated into more than 25 languages and, in total, have sold approximately twenty-five million copies worldwide. They have won a number of literary awards. His latest book, *Ultimate Punishment: A Lawyer's Reflections on Dealing with the Death Penalty*, was published on October 1, 2003.

Mr. Turow continues to work as an attorney. He is a partner in the Chicago office of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, a national law firm with 600 lawyers. Mr. Turow's practice centers on white collar criminal litigation. Mr. Turow devotes a substantial part of his practice now to *pro bono* work, including representations in cases involving the death penalty. In one of these matters, Alejandro Hernandez, co-defendant of Rolando Cruz, was exonerated after 11 years in prison.

Scott Turow was born on April 12, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated with high honors from Amherst College in 1970. That year, he received an Edith Mirrielees Fellowship to the Stanford University Creative Writing Center, which he attended from 1970-72. From 1972 to 1975, Mr. Turow taught Creative Writing at Stanford, as E.H. Jones Lecturer. In 1975, he entered Harvard Law School, graduating with honors in 1978. From 1978 to 1986, he was an Assistant United States Attorney in Chicago. He was one of the prosecutors in the trial of Illinois Attorney General William J. Scott, who was convicted of tax fraud. Mr. Turow was also lead government counsel in a number of the trials connected to Operation Greylord, a federal investigation of corruption in the Illinois judiciary. Mr. Turow has been active in a number of charitable causes, including Literacy Chicago. In 1997-98, he served as president of the Authors Guild, which is the national membership organization for professional writers, and continues to serve on its governing board. He is a Trustee of Amherst College.

Mr. Turow has been appointed to a number of public bodies. He is currently the Chairman of Illinois' Executive Ethics Commission. From 2002-2004, he served as Chair of the Illinois State Appellate Defender's Commission, which oversees the state agency which represents indigent criminal defendants in their appeals. He served as one of the fourteen members of the Commission appointed in March, 2000, by Illinois Governor George Ryan to consider reform of the capital punishment system; the Commission was appointed after Governor Ryan declared a Moratorium on executions and delivered its report in April 2002. From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Turow was a member of the Illinois State Police Merit Board, which determines matters of hiring, promotion and discipline for members of the Illinois State Police. He also has served in 1997 and 1998 on the United States Senate Nominations Commission for the Northern District of Illinois, which recommended appointment of federal judges.

Mr. Turow has been married to Annette Turow, a painter, since 1971. They have three children. The family lives outside Chicago.